



Department of State ^{POL 13-10 ARAB} **TELEGRAM**

XR PER NOEL, CLEO A. JR.
PER MOORE, GEORGE C.
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 013 POL 17 SAUD-SUDAN

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ACTION NEA-12

File: PLO/PTER

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BEIRUT 2543

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-13 M-00 A-01 SY-07 USSS-00
ER-11 SCA-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 UCIA-12
SSO-00 CCO-00 RSR-01 149 W 102230

R 051522Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 928
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO: AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF

SUBJECT: PLO RULE IN SURRENDER OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS

REF: BEIRUT 2488

1. SUMMARY: FROM VARIOUS REPORTS APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS, ESPECIALLY PAPERS CLOSE TO FEDAYEEN, RE CONTACTS MAR 3 BETWEEN 'ARAFAT AND SUDANESE GOVT, WE HAVE PIECED TOGETHER WHAT WE THINK IS FAIRLY ACCURATE SCENARIO OF EVENTS LEADING TO SURRENDER OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS MAR 4. IN PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN 'ARAFAT AND PLO ESTABLISHMENT ON ONE HAND AND BLACK SEPTEMBRISTS ON OTHER, IT GIVES LIE TO 'ARAFAT'S CLAIM THAT PLO IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN KHARTOUM TRAGEDY. END SUMMARY.

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2. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN SEVERAL PAPERS (INCLUDING THOSE WITH GOOD FEDAYEEN CONNECTIONS), PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET HERE MORNING OF MAR 3 FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF NEWS FROM KHARTOUM OF "EXECUTION" OF THREE US AND BELGIAN DIPLOMATS. PLO/EC REPORTEDLY TOOK DECISION AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN YARAFAT SEND SPECIAL PLO REP (UNNAMED) TO KHARTOUM FOR URGENT TALKS WITH SUDANESE GOVT AND CARRYING "ORDER" FOR EIGHT TERRORISTS HOLDING OUT IN SAUDI EMB THAT THEIR "MISSION" WAS COMPLETED AND INSTRUCTING THEM TO TURN THEMSELVES OVER TO SUDANESE AUTHORITIES. LATER IN DAY, YARAFAT REPORTEDLY CONTACTED SUDANESE GOVT DIRECTLY (IN PHONE CALL SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY LEBANESE PRIMIN SALAM VIA SUDANESE EMB HERE), ASKING HIM REFRAIN FROM ASSAULTING SAUDI EMB AND BE PATIENT "PENDING ARRIVAL IN KHARTOUM OF PLO REP WHOSE PRESENCE WOULD ASSIST IN FINDING SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS."

3. SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS APPEARED CONFIRMED DURING NIGHT OF MAR 3-4, SINCE LOCAL PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR REPORTED NEXT MORNING THAT "BSO HAS DECIDED END ITS KHARTOUM OPERATION BY HAVING FEDAYEEN SURRENDER TO SUDANESE AUTHORITIES" (FBIS 040723Z). PAPER SAID THIS DECISION HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO NUMAYRI SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT AND QUOTED BSO AS BEING CONFIDENT SUDANESE PRES "WOULD ACCORD OUR FEDAYEEN YOUTH STATUS OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLERS." IT ALSO QUOTED PLO OFFICIAL IN DAMASCUS SAYING EIGHT TERRORISTS WOULD GIVE THEMSELVES UP "TRUSTING THAT VERDICT OF SUDANESE COURTS WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FEELINGS OF SUDANESE PEOPLE AND SACRED CAUSE OF PALESTINE."

4. HAVING CORRECTLY FORECAST WHAT TOOK PLACE IN KHARTOUM LATER ON MAR 4, AL MUHARRIR ON MAR 5 CARRIED ALLEGED TEXT OF BLACK SEPTEMBER "ORDER" SENT TO TERRORISTS AT SAUDI EMB MAR 3. (PAPER CLAIMED IT RECEIVED BSO STATEMENT GIVING THIS TEXT FROM IRAQI NEWS AGENCY IN BEIRUT, BUT WE BELIEVE IT CAME STRAIGHT FROM FEDAYEEN.) TEXT OF "ORDER" FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: YOUR MISSION HAS ENDED. RELEASE SAUDI AND JORDANIAN DIPLOMATS. SUBMIT IN COURAGE TO SUDANESE AUTHORITIES TO EXPLAIN YOUR JUST CAUSE TO GREAT SUDANESE PEOPLE, ARAB MASSES AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION. WE ARE WITH YOU

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ON SAME ROAD. GLORY AND IMMORTALITY TO MARTYRS OF BEDDAWI,
NAHR AL BARIQ AND LIRYAN AIRCRAFT. END QUOTE. BSO STATE-
MENT ADDED: QUOTE: NOW THAT OUR YOUTHS HAVE GIVEN THEM-
SELVES UP AS INSTRUCTED, WE WISH MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THEIR OPERATION WAS AIMED AT LIBERATING ABU DA'UD, HIS
COMPANIONS AND SIRHAN BESHARA SIRHAN WHO ARE BEING TORTURED
IN VIOLATION OF ALL HUMAN ETHICS. IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO SHED
BLOOD, BUT TO SET THESE MEN FREE.

(B) OWING TO ARROGANCE AND OBSTINACY DISPLAYED BY NIXON AND
JORDANIAN RULERS, OUR REVOLUTIONARIES EXECUTED THREE HOSTAGES
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO PLANNING MASSACRE OF OUR NATION AND CONSPIRED
AGAINST IT. MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS CURTIS MOORE, WHO WAS
CIA BRAINS IN ARE AND ONE THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SEPT 1970
MASSACRES.

(C) OUR FIGHTERS WERE FEARLESS AND FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS TO THE
LETTER. THEY WERE NOT DETERRED BY THREATS OR PITY AND DID
NOT CRAWL BEFORE AMERICANS WHO CONTROL FATE OF NATIONS. THOSE
WHO SHED CROCODILE TEARS FOR HOSTAGES MUST REMEMBER THOUSANDS
OF OUR NATION MASSACRED IN UNPRECEDENTED BRUTALITY AND THOUSANDS
MORE IN JORDANIAN PRISONS. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: A. BASED ON WELL-KNOWN DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN
LO AND AL MUHARRIR (WHOSE SENIOR EDITOR IS PLO REP FOR
LEBANON), PAPER'S PAST ACCURACY IN REPORTING FEDAYEEN VIEWS,
AND ACCURATE PREDICTION IN ITS MAR 4 ARTICLE RE IMPENDING
SURRENDER OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT
MUHARRIR ARTICLES OF MAR 3 (REFTEL), 4 AND 5 ARE FAITHFUL RENDI-
TIONS OF BSO ATTITUDES AND DIRECTIVES. MOREOVER, VERY CLOSE
CORRELATION OF BSO ATTITUDES AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THOSE OF
'ARAFAT AND PLOEC, EVEN EXTENDING TO DESCRIPTION OF TERRORISTS
AS "REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLERS", REVEALS PUBLICLY JUST HOW FLIMSY
IS MASK WITH WHICH 'ARAFAT AND PLO TRY TO HIDE THEIR CLOSE
CONNECTIONS WITH BSO. THIS MAY BE OF SOME VALUE WITH ARAB
LEADERS WHO PROFESS TO BELIEVE THAT PLO IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AS WILL ACTIONS OF PLO REPS IN KHARTOUM
WHO REPORTEDLY INVOLVED DIRECTLY IN OPERATION AGAINST SAUDI
EMBASSY. WHILE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT 'ARAFAT WAS INVOLVED
IN PRIOR PLANNING OR DECISION MAKING, OR EVEN AWARE OF KHARTOUM
OPERATION BEFORE FACT, HE CLEARLY PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE ONCE

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OPERATION UNDERWAY.

R. WE HAVE REPORTED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THAT MORE MODERATE FEDAYEEN LEADERS, INCLUDING 'ARAFAT HAVE BEEN FORCED BY EXTREMISTS EITHER TO MOVE CLOSER TO THEIR VIEWS RE USE OF TERRORISM OR BE FORCED OUT OF KEY POSITION IN MOVEMENT (E.G., KHALED EL HASSANI). 'ARAFAT'S LAST-MINUTE MOVE TO HELP AVERT ASSASSINATION OF SAUDI AND JORDANIAN AMBASSADORS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED MAINTAIN SOME SLIGHT CREDIT WITH ARAB MODERATES AND THOSE WITHIN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT WHO BELIEVE THAT EXTREMISTS LIKE SALAH KHALAF ARE LEADING MOVEMENT TO DESTRUCTION.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: BEIRUT 2543 NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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